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## Senate

The Senate met at 12:01 p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God of us all, who is above all, yet in us all, make us ever sensitive to all the expressions of Your grace. Thank You for the glory of a sunrise and sunset, for the refreshment of the breezes that invigorate, and for the technicolor in trees, shrubs, sky, and sea. May the challenges of our times never blind us to life's wonders.

As we reconvene after our August recess, prepare our lawmakers for today's journey. May they strive to stay within the circle of Your will, as You guide their steps. Help them to be ready to solve problems, receiving inspiration from the creative power of Your love. Let business be done on Capitol Hill that will address itself to the real issues and not to games. May the work of our Senators become an expression of Your truth, righteousness, and justice.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 4, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business extend for 60 minutes, equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak during that period of time, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority time being equally divided between Senators BROWN and BAUCUS, and that the Republicans control the final 30 minutes; that the Senate proceed then to the Military Construction appropriations bill; further, that with respect to the debate time on the Nussle nomination, the time for the Chair and ranking member be equally divided and controlled between the chairs and ranking members of the Budget and Homeland Security Committees, with Senator SANDERS retaining the hour previously provided him, with all other provisions of the previous order governing the Nussle nomination remaining in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a speech I am going to give not be counted against leader time. That will give the morning business the full hour requested.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, under the order that was entered, the Senate will conduct a period for morning business for 60 minutes, with the time controlled between the two sides as I read. Following this period for morning business, the Senate will proceed to the Military Construction and VA appropriations bill. This is a very critical, important message for our military and for our veterans. I hope we can consider this bill in a very expeditious manner.

At approximately 2:30 this afternoon, the Senate will proceed to executive session and consider the Nussle nomination for a period of 3 hours. The chairs and ranking members of the Budget and Homeland Security Committees will each be recognized as indicated in the matter I just read before the Senate. There will be 30 minutes, as indicated, on each side, with Senator SANDERS controlling 1 hour. A vote on the nomination is expected to occur about 5:30 this afternoon.

I spoke with the distinguished Republican leader this morning and indicated what we were going to accomplish before we leave for the Jewish holiday, which is 1 week from this Wednesday—1 week from tomorrow.

We are going to take up and complete the Nussle nomination this afternoon. Prior to that being completed, Senators JACK REED and KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, who are the managers of the appropriations bill that will come

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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